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Children's Water Festival to Teach Students About Precious Resource

(Santa Fe, NM) — Why do rivers run brown after a downpour? What's life like for a Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout? These questions and more will be answered at the first-ever Children's Water Festival to be held at the Sweeney Convention Center on March 13 and 14 from 9 am to Noon. Participants will include over 500 students from schools in the Santa Fe area. As they step off the buses, the 4th graders will be welcomed by the Water Wizard and they will spend the rest of the day participating in fun, hands-on learning activities about water science, history, geography, and our water future.

"Sufficient supplies of clean, safe water are one of the most important legacies we can leave these kids," said New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Secretary Ron Curry. "NMED is happy to help educate these students about water quality and quantity and to help them have fun doing it."

Students will be challenged to test their water knowledge in lively games of Water Jeopardy. They will discover how clouds reveal when a flash flood is coming and look for "bugs" in the water to determine its purity. They will learn that they can take action to conserve our precious water and protect water quality.

"These 4th grade students will be our future water engineers and managers; voters and decision makers," said Festival Manager Susan Gorman. "They will have to make critical choices about water and they must have the facts, concepts, values and critical thinking skills to do that. Hopefully, the Water Festival will set off a chain reaction for more and more water education in every school and each home."

Major donors to the Water Festival include the New Mexico Environment Department, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the City of Santa Fe and the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce. Additional funding has been provided by PNM, the Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter and Santa Fe Area Home Builders Association.

For more information, contact Festival Manager Susan Gorman at (505) 259-7190, or Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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